



# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 30, 1980

## Bush is Republican version of Carter based on Iowa results

By DAVID S. BRODER

It was close to 2 o'clock in the morning after the Iowa caucuses when two somewhat sheepish visitors knocked on the hotel-room door of President Carter's campaign chairman.

"Oh, my God," said an obviously exhausted Robert S. Strauss, peering sleepily around the corner of the door that shielded his body from view. "If it was anybody but you two, I'd throw you out. Wait a minute while I pull some pants on."

A moment later, Strauss admitted the pair — and a reporter who had wandered past the room — and greetings were exchanged all around.

It was a scene that would have puzzled the Russians and others who assume that politics is simply organized personal antagonism. For these were not Carter Democrats coming calling on the campaign chairman, but diehard Republicans.

"We just couldn't leave without congratulating you," said Smith. "Well, I'm glad you did," said Strauss, gallantly overcoming fatigue, "because your guy did a helluva job here, too."

Smith and Herman are backers of George Bush, whose Iowa victory over favored Ronald Reagan rewrote the odds on the Republican nomination fight.

For quite a few minutes, Strauss praised his fellow-Texan Bush. It was not just politeness. Back in 1975, when some Democratic senators were arguing that Bush was "too partisan" to serve as President Ford's director of central intelligence because of his earlier assignment as Republican national chairman, Strauss publicly praised Bush's qualifications and rejected the argument that a partisan post disqualified Bush for a sensitive governmental assignment.

But as the hotel room conversation developed, Carter's chairman also probed politely for clues as to where the Bush campaign might be going and by what route.

That was not the only indication in the Hotel Savery that early morning that Carter's men were beginning to take the measure of this possible opponent. "I've been watching old Bush from the beginning," White House press secretary Jody Powell

told some reporters a bit earlier. "It has really intrigued me... But I don't think his success will extend quite as far as the White House."

Until now, the semi-official White House line has been that Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. would be Carter's toughest and worthiest opponent for the general election. Privately, some Carter men have conceded that if former President Ford were nominated, he could be the strongest rival of all, because he and he alone could virtually eliminate the incumbency and experience arguments for reelecting the President.

But now they are starting to take Bush more seriously — and for good reason. Carter's people know and admire political organization, and Bush's campaign in Iowa was a textbook example of skillful organizing. Bush modeled his Iowa campaign on the one Carter ran here in 1976, starting early and making his own presence the key to the recruitment of volunteers.

But he had one advantage Carter lacked — the early support of such GOP insiders as Smith and Herman. They and their counterparts in Republican organizations in other states are devoted to Bush, for his personal qualities as well as for his years of

work at their side on behalf of the President.

Bush is Carter — with an extra dimension. He is the dogged campaigner, also an insider, with a wealth of political allies from his service in Congress, the executive branch and the party campaign ship.

This combination makes him a formidable opponent. Powell and Strauss recognize — a major reason behind his candidacy. Bush's victory over Reagan in Iowa was a major political upset, and he is uttering one word of criticism of the yet come front-runner. While the time yet come when Bush will have to draw line with Reagan in a more personal way, he is obviously better off if he can win nomination without antagonizing Reagan faithful.

As a public speaker, he is as effective as Carter. As a television personality, he is at least as attractive. He tells his audience that he is far better trained for the presidency by his congressional service than three major executive branch jobs Carter was when he came to office. Carter, he does not lack self-confidence.

Adding it all up, the exchange of comments in Strauss' hotel room could be preliminary to a rather interesting fight. (c) 1980, The Washington Post

## OPINION

### Battalion aims for fair coverage

A reporter for the Battalion ran into an unusual problem the other day.

She had been assigned to cover a meeting of an influential campus organization. After the meeting, the president of the organization told the reporter she did not need to write a story on the meeting because, she said, what that organization did was not newsworthy.

The reporter wrote the story anyway and it ran in the Battalion. It was an open meeting and there were no legal problems in running the story, despite the president's request.

We did not run the story to spite the organization's president. We ran it because the organization is influential in the daily life of every on-campus student.

The decisions made at the meeting will ultimately have some effect on dorm residents.

That is news.

The Battalion cannot cover every meeting of every organization on the campus.

But we cover all meetings of some organizations because of their importance to a large number of students.

Most leaders of these organizations realize it is necessary for the Battalion to cover and report what takes place at their meetings.

We hope the incident involving this organization's president was isolated.

The Battalion covers stories that, in our opinion, are important. We never cover a story with the intent of "getting" somebody.

The Battalion would prefer a semester of harmony rather than antagonism with on- and off-campus organizations.

It is the duty of the Battalion to bring the news to its readers — whether we can do it with the cooperation of these organizations or not.

the small society by Brickman



MAGNELLY THE RICHMOND NEWS LEADER © 1980 BY PHOENIX GAZETTE



## LETTERS

### Blackballing welcome

Editor:

In reference to the letter written by Mary Ann Robinson on January 23, I agree with her 100%. Just who does John Winchester think he is, making fun of such an

important group as the Greeks, who make up three percent of the student body? Before you know it, people will start making fun of the Corps or even ALL Aggies. Just think what it would be like if people made fun of Aggies! I hope the author of that comic will be wiser in the future, especially now that he might be "blackballed." And when the Greeks get around to "blackballing," here are a few names of people who would be honored to be on their blacklist.

Ian Crawford '80  
(This letter was accompanied by 36 other signatures)

### Volunteers are better

Editor:

I wish to go on record as one Aggie who believes that both draft registration and reinstatement of the draft are wrong and unnecessary.

The draft is simply a form of involuntary servitude, not in keeping with the ideals of a free people. The concept of enslaving some of our citizens in order to keep the United States free is self-contradictory at best.

A professional military force, well trained and highly motivated, is all the Un-

ited States needs for its defense. In the event of an actual attack on the United States, volunteers would most certainly meet the manpower needs of our military. This refutes the idea that registration and standby conscription law is necessary for the defense of our nation.

If sufficient manpower is currently a problem, higher wages for the military would be a much more cost effective moral solution to this problem than conscription. I for one believe our nation's defense should rely upon highly motivated professionals rather than upon poorly motivated conscripts.

Robert Zah...

### Correction

Tuesday's Battalion incorrectly identified Steve Sikora, the student killed Monday afternoon in a car accident on Texas Avenue, as a freshman. Sikora was a sophomore. The Battalion regrets the error.

## THOTZ



## THE BATTALION

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By Doug Graham